

# Community Connections

*A City of San José Publication in Support of Building  
Stronger Neighborhoods*



## Go Green Schools Save More than the Planet

*"All schools prepare our children for the future, but Go Green schools prepare the future for our children." - Jill Buck, founder of the Go Green Initiative*

Parents, educators, students and other community members are discovering a great opportunity to save money for schools while saving the planet. In San José and across the country they are discovering the opportunity to "green" our children's K-12 schools using the proven framework of the Go Green Initiative.

member schools at no cost. It encourages schools to take up the program at whatever level and pace they choose whether starting a school recycling program, or fully launching environmental education, procurement and the evaluation of school environmental practices that impact students' health.

Go Green fosters school recycling and environmental stewardship in a parent and community driven process. It provides a comprehensive environmental action plan for schools that involves students and parents at every level. The Go Green Initiative Association provides tools, training and funding support to Go Green

Many schools have discovered that green actions mean budget savings to their bottom lines as well. Whether through lowered garbage rates because of increased recycling and composting, lowered energy bills because of energy efficiencies and

*Continued on page 2*

## INSIDE

**Fire Department** 2

**Citywide Events & Trainings** 3

**Youth Corner** 4

**Great American Litter Pick-up** 4

**Community Resource** 5

**Neighborhood Highlight** 6

**NDC Corner** 7

## City of San José 2004-2005 Year in Review

Introduction to a first class City, San José - Capital of Silicon Valley, the 10th largest City in the United States, number one recycler among the nation's largest cities, first major new City Hall of the 21st century, highest credit rating of any large city in California, number one in median household income in the nation, highest per capita library circulation and number of library visits of the ten largest cities. For San José, 2004-2005 was a year of significant change. As a center for innovation and creativity,

San José is recognized as a good place to live and work, and this year our growing population pushed us onto a select list as the 10th largest city in the country.

More visible than this significant demographic milestone, however, was the opening of the new San José City Hall, the first major new U.S. City Hall in the 21st century. This striking change to the San José skyline, is already improving the way we deliver

*Continued on page 5*

## Go Green Schools continued...



*Continued from front page*

solar roofs, lowered maintenance bills because of installation of turf alternatives, or lowered water bills because of conservation measures, schools are finding that going green saves

green. The program has been adopted by more than 200 schools in 13 states including California where it was founded by Pleasanton parent and Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) leader Jill Buck. It has been endorsed by the National School Boards Association, the National Audubon Society and the National Recycling Coalition, as well as several state PTA's. Go Green schools have already been responsible for recycling tons of paper, plastic and other recyclable materials that would have otherwise been added to landfills. Perhaps most importantly, Go Green students learn the value of environmental

stewardship.

City of San José staff from the Environmental Services and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Departments are working with the Go Green Initiative Association, San José schools and community agencies to help promote environmental stewardship through the adoption of the Go Green program.

For more information on how your school can Go Green and save green, please contact:

Deb Bogart  
(408) 975-2533

[2Deb.Bogart@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:2Deb.Bogart@sanjoseca.gov)  
[www.gogreeninitiative.org](http://www.gogreeninitiative.org)

## Fire Department - "What is the vial of L.I.F.E.?"

The vial of L.I.F.E. is **L**ifesaving **I**nformation **F**or **E**mergencies. It's a place for you to store important medical information that emergency medical personnel (firefighters, paramedics and hospital staff) need in a time of crises. By completing a Vial of L.I.F.E. form, you can provide emergency personnel with vital lifesaving information, even if you are unable to.

The Vial of L.I.F.E. Kit is available for free as a public

service from the San José Firefighters Union Local 230 and the San José Fire Department. You can pick up a kit at any Fire Station or call the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services Division at (408) 277-4084. You may also download and print your own form by going to [www.sjfd.org/vial.htm](http://www.sjfd.org/vial.htm)

The Department also has a Public Education Office that can provide staff who will meet with your

neighborhood association, community organization, business or school to conduct a presentation on one of several programs, including fire and life safety, community awareness, fire station tours and senior safety. You must submit your requests to the Public Education office at least 21 days prior to the event.

San José Fire Department  
**Office of Public Education**  
170 West San Carlos Street  
San José, CA 95113  
(408) 277-2878

### You are Invited!

The San José City Council meets at 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday and 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The San José Redevelopment Agency meets every Tuesday following City Council meetings. All meetings are held in the Council Chambers at the new **San José City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street**. Meetings can also be viewed on the web at [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov) or on the City cable TV station, Channel 26/26A. Stay tuned and stay connected.

## Citywide Events and Trainings

---

April 13, 2006

### **Fundraising Strategies**

*Free NDC Training*

1601 Foxworthy Avenue

Kirk Community Center

Located in Room 4

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Contact: (408) 723-4114

---

April 19, 2006

### **Neighborhood Newsletter**

*Free NDC Training*

1601 Foxworthy Avenue

Kirk Community Center

Located in Room 4

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Contact: (408) 723-4114

---

April 20, 2006

### **Walk a Mile in Her Shoes**

Plaza de César Chávez

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Contact: LaDonna Curteman

(408) 295-4011 x216

[www.ywca-sv.org](http://www.ywca-sv.org)

---

April 22, 2006

### **Earth Day**

*Free Jazz Concert*

Plaza de César Chávez

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

---

April 29, 2006

### **San José Children's Faire**

Guadalupe River Park/

Discovery Meadow

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Joann Douglas

(408) 808-2617

[www.moyc-csj.org](http://www.moyc-csj.org)

---

May 3, 2006

### **Megan's Law & Neighborhood Watch**

*Free NDC Training*

1601 Foxworthy Avenue

Kirk Community Center

Located in Room 4

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Contact: (408) 723-4114

---

May 7, 2006

### **Cinco de Mayo Parade & Festival**

Guadalupe River Park/

Discovery Meadow

10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Letetia Rodriguez

(408) 288-9470

[www.sjgif.org/cincomemayo.html](http://www.sjgif.org/cincomemayo.html)

---

May 10, 2006

### **Community Café**

*"Building Collaborations and Partnerships"*

1601 Foxworthy Avenue

Kirk Community Center

Located in Room 4

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Contact: (408) 723-4114

---

May 13, 2006

### **Berryessa Art & Wine Festival**

Penitencia Creek Park

10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Shannon Jones

(408) 923-3083

---

May 17, 2006

### **Creating an Action Plan & Handling the Money**

*Free NDC Training*

1601 Foxworthy Avenue

Kirk Community Center

Located in Room 4

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Contact: (408) 723-4114

---

May 20, 2006

### **Walk for Life 2006**

Lake Cunningham - Cypress

Pavilion

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Paula Greenwell

(408) 229-9836

[www.mycpc.org](http://www.mycpc.org)

---

June 17 - 18, 2006

### **Juneteenth Cultural Festival**

Plaza de César Chávez

12:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Joanna Farris

(408) 292-3157

---

## **Volunteers NEEDED!**

The City is receiving many requests for groups to tour the new City Hall and is looking for dedicated volunteers that can make a commitment to provide tours. Currently, we have drop-in tours on most Tuesdays from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. and would like to offer a time on Wednesdays or Thursdays. If you are interested in being a tour guide docent, please call the Customer Service Call Center at (408) 353-3500 or email:

[customerservice@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:customerservice@sanjoseca.gov)

Street Smarts is a public education campaign targeted toward changing driver, pedestrian and bicyclist behavior to improve safety on our streets. The program is developing partnerships with schools, neighborhoods, businesses and community organizations to address this growing community issue. For more information about the City of San José Street Smarts program visit: [www.GetStreetSmarts.org](http://www.GetStreetSmarts.org)

**Volunteer and Bring the Kids!** A Bicycle “Rodeo” is a simple bike course designed to teach children basic skills needed to be a safe bicyclist. As a Bicycle Safety Course Assistant, you will monitor and assist youth ages 5-15 through bike course stations and check bike helmets for proper fit. If you’re interested in helping keep San José’s young bike riders safe, and if your foot fits the pedal, please contact Veronica Posada, School Safety Education Coordinator with the City’s Department of Transportation at (408) 975-3296.

Don't let **LITTER**  
Trash your community!

Volunteer with  
other concerned  
citizens to pick up  
litter in your community



**Great American Litter**

**PICK UP**

**Saturday, April 8, 2006**

- Clean-up: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Travel to lunch: 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Annual Great American Litter Pick-Up is coming to a neighborhood near you. Please join your council district and help clean up our wonderful San José. For more information or to sign up call **(408) 408-535-3500**.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own pick-up stick & gloves. All youth under 18 need supervision & transportation to get to clean-up sites.

**Community Connections** is published on a quarterly basis. Your contributions of Citywide interest are welcome. If you would like to submit an article, send an email to:

[tina.monarrez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:tina.monarrez@sanjoseca.gov)

or

submit information on a disk  
saved as text,  
along with a hard copy to:

1601 Foxworthy Avenue  
San José, CA 95118

If you have any questions,  
please contact  
Tina Monarrez,  
Newsletter Chief Editor, at  
(408) 723-4114.

**\*Articles are subject to  
editorial decision to publish or  
edit for the publication.**

## Community Resource

*You can make a difference!*



InnVision is dedicated to empowering homeless and at-risk families and individuals in finding the way home! Founded in 1973, InnVision got its start when members of nine downtown San José churches began noticing with alarm that more and more people were sleeping in downtown doorways. Today, InnVision programs reach throughout South Bay and serve more than 15,000 men, women, children and mentally ill adults each year

at 17 different sites, and address the multiple needs of people in transition, including emergency shelters, transitional/supportive housing, food, clothing, showers, laundry, healthcare, job training, classes, children's programs and access to telephones and computers. This non-profit corporation has over 100 dedicated staff members and more than 2,000 volunteers.

Your donations whether cash, clothing, appliances, electronics,

computers, food, or other monetary contributions gives InnVision the ability to provide housing, programs and services. Volunteer or make a donation and start changing lives.

### **InnVision...The Way Home**

974 Willow Street

San José, CA 95125

Phone: (408) 292-4286

Fax: (408) 271-0826

[donating@innvision.org](mailto:donating@innvision.org)

[www.innvision.org](http://www.innvision.org)

## City of San José 2004-2005 Year in Review - continued...

### *Continued from front page*

services. A customer service center on the first floor brings together workers from many departments to make conducting business with the City easier. With its modern design, engaging public spaces and central downtown location, the new City Hall is fast becoming a popular destination for residents and visitors alike.

Following years of preparation, work began this year to improve terminal spaces at Mineta San José International Airport, a major regional asset that is critical to our economic health. Ground was broken and work initiated on a new terminal/concourse that will greatly enhance the passenger experience.

With the regional economic slump continuing, the City continued to experience a significant budget challenge this past year. The organization now operates with staffing levels equivalent to those of seven years ago. While this continues to present service delivery challenges, the City's AA+ bond rating remains the strongest of any large city in California.

Efforts to maintain and strengthen San José's economic vitality continued with several significant achievements. City staff worked closely with major companies like eBay, BEA Systems and Hitachi to keep their expansions, as well as the jobs they create in San José. Our business appreciation initiative provides critical ongoing feedback from large employers

on other ways we can improve.

Raising San José's visibility on the national stage, San José's first Grand Prix was televised internationally and brought significant tourism dollars to the region as 150,000 fans crowded into downtown to watch cars race through the streets of our City.

San José has a well-earned reputation for creativity and innovation. Information on this article and much more can be found by reading the 2005 Annual Corporate Report found on the City's website at [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov) (click on City Manager, located under Local Government).

### **City Manager's Office**

200 East Santa Clara Street

San José, CA 95113

(408) 535-8100



## Neighborhood Highlight - VEP Community Association



As we enter our 37<sup>th</sup> year, our all-volunteer organization celebrates a record year of achievement in 2005, setting records in paid membership, monthly attendance, beautification projects, and bonds with our members, schools, local businesses, and government. Here are some of the keys to our success.

**Monthly Meetings.** VEP executives meet monthly to conduct business and prepare for eight general meetings each year. In 2005, our topics ranged from neighborhood issues to West-Nile virus to government policy discussions. We always feature appropriate experts, elected representatives and decision makers as guest speakers. We publish and mail a 16-page newsletter to all members each month that school is in session.

**Goal Setting.** Each summer, our Executive Board compiles a detailed set of goals and objectives. Debated and approved at our September general meeting, they serve as our marching orders for the coming year, and the basis for a "wish list" we distribute annually to our city and county representatives. Our success springs from being organized, focused, and willing to work smart and hard to reach our goals.

**Community Beautification.** Each year VEP completes at least two beautification projects and maintains those done in past years. We've participated in San José Beautiful's Daffodil Day

event for the last five years, and we've planted over 200 trees since 1995. VEP received the *Mayor's 2005 Outstanding Service Award* for this continuing work.



*Tree Planting December 2005*

**Grants.** VEP won three grants each from *San Jose Beautiful* and *Our City Forest* for beautification projects. In an effort to increase membership and awareness of VEP, we also won two *CAP* grants to temporarily expand distribution of our newsletter to all households in our membership area. Two of our executives have attended NDC classes and found them very worthwhile.

**Social Events.** VEP hosts three fun events each year: a Home Improvement Faire, a Community Garage Sale, and a Memorial Day Parade & Festival. We also sponsor election forums. These events strengthen ties between our members, schools, government, police, firefighters, and local businesses.

**Community Service Awards.** For 21 years, VEP has rewarded graduating high school seniors for outstanding volunteer community service. This year,

we will give three exemplary young people stipends of \$1500 each for post-secondary education or vocational training.

**VEP Officers.** The key to our long-term success has been finding and grooming new leaders to bring their passions, energy and ideas to the ever-changing challenges in our neighborhoods.



*2005 Mayor's Volunteer Award*

When founded in 1969, "VEP" stood for the first three subdivisions in our area. We've grown to a membership area of 2000 homes, roughly bounded by Route 87, Capitol Expressway, Snell Avenue, and Chynoweth Avenue. We like to say that **VEP = Very Energetic People**.

We welcome you to attend our general meetings held the fourth Tuesday of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November. We currently meet in the Gunderson High School Faculty Lounge, but expect to move to our new home at the Vista Park Community Room in April. For more information, visit [www.vepca.org](http://www.vepca.org) or contact Dave Noel at [dnoel1234@aol.com](mailto:dnoel1234@aol.com) or (408) 266-7183.

## NDC Corner - Motivating Others

Are you...

Motivated?

*Community Leadership Academy*

*Community Café Re-cap*

*Wednesday, February 1, 2006*

On February 1, NDC hosted the fourth quarterly Community Café where up-and-coming leaders and veteran leaders come together to discuss common neighborhood issues. This quarter's topic was on "Motivating Others."

After some lively discussion over what motivates each of the participants and what exactly is motivation, the group tackled the questions "How are we going to go out and motivate others?" The group came up with some creative ways to entice other residents to get involved. There's not enough room to list them all, but here are some you may want to undertake with your neighborhood group. And of course, let us know of your successes.

- Compliment individuals on what they do well. Use their skills to further your organizations' goals and objectives. Understand that not everyone

will want to get involved in everything. Take the time to find out what their interests are and match them up with an opportunity within the neighborhood group.

- Provide opportunities for neighbors to get together and get to know one another. This creates neighborhood bonds.

- Volunteer our voice. As members of the board, we should bring up issues that affect others who are not as comfortable speaking in front of a large group.

- Make signing-in fun and gain more information. Tiara Sotelo, LeyVa CAT President, shared an idea of having each individual sign-in using a form, which asks for the usual name, address, and phone, but also asked what are the interests of the individuals. This way, the Board can match up volunteer opportunities with

individuals. The same form is also entered into a drawing for free prizes donated by local businesses.

- Recognize, Recognize, Recognize!

- Set goals and celebrate the accomplishments.

- Offer to be a mentor. Taking on a board position can seem very overwhelming, especially to someone new. A great way to ease the anxiety is to offer to be a mentor.

Thank you to Cris Castrence, Mark De La Cruz, Julie Glenn, Kim Kershner, Ann Smith, Tiara Sotelo, and Luke Vratny for sharing your enthusiasm and making a difference in your neighborhood!

---

### Inclusion

The City of San José encourages and supports the participation of individuals with all ability levels in programs and services. To facilitate opportunities for people with and without disabilities and to engage in leisure pursuits together, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services provides inclusion support services. These services include, but are not limited to, interpreters for the deaf or hearing impaired, improved signage, activity modification, additional staff training, accessible equipment and facility features, and support staff. To ensure the requested accommodation, please notify the specific facility where the program is provided at least two weeks in advance. For more information on inclusion opportunities, specialized recreation services, and accommodations, please contact the PRNS Administrative Offices (408) 535-3570.



*"Communities of People Connected by  
Play, Hope, and Joy in Life"*

We want to know what you think about our community newsletter, *Community Connections*. Our goal is to keep residents connected and informed of City issues. Our effort is only worthwhile if it provides information that is useful and meaningful to you. Please send us your comments and suggestions.

**Neighborhood Development Center (NDC)**  
1601 Foxworthy Avenue  
San José, CA 95118

Phone: (408) 723-4114  
[ndc@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ndc@sanjoseca.gov)

Visit us on the web:  
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns>  
(then click on NDC)

City of San José Website:  
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov>

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood  
Services Website:  
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns>

### Anti-Discrimination Policy

It is the City of San José policy to afford all persons equal opportunity by prohibiting discrimination in City programs against any person on the basis of races, sex, color, age, religion, sexual orientation, actual or perceived gender identity, disability, ethnicity, or national origin. It is the City's policy goal to expand opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in City services, programs and facilities.

## Did You Know?

San José's new "larger than life" attraction is Monopoly in the Park. It is the world's biggest version of the most popular board game ever. The real estate market is always booming, as property is traded on a 930-square foot permanent Monopoly board. Now everyone has a chance to make it big in Silicon Valley real estate! Large groups

can reserve the giant board and game pieces for organized events. Participants play with jumbo dice, gigantic token-shaped hats, and occasionally even wear jailhouse garb. Monopoly in the Park is big fun for: Family reunions, field trips, company picnics, birthday parties and corporate team building events.

For more information, please call San José Beautiful at, (408) 723-1574.

